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FEARFUL CONDITIONS IN WITTENBURG CAMP

English Committee Describes
German Treatment of British
Prisoners as "Indescribable"

CRUELTY IS NOTORIOUS

Appearance of Typhus Caused
Captors to Flee in Terror. Officers
Bring Tragic Story.

The government committee on the treatment in Germany of British prisoners of war, of which Mr. Justice Younger is chairman, has issued a report characterizing as "indescribable" the conditions prevailing in the Wittenburg camp during the typhus epidemic of last year. The epidemic broke out Dec. 1915. *****

London, April 9.—The report is based on information from prisoners and especially from Maj. Priestley, Capt. Vidal and Capt. Lauder of the army medical corps, who were sent to the camp shortly after the outbreak of the epidemic, and who were recently released from Germany. The three officers mentioned are the only survivors of six British doctors sent to the Wittenburg camp by the Germans "to take up" says the report, "the place of duty abandoned by their own medical staff when the presence of typhus manifested itself."

The records of the epidemic kept by the British officers were taken, but the report gives in detail the condition of the camp and the treatment of prisoners and patients which the American ambassador, James W. Gerard, in his report last November said was "even more unfavorable than I had been led to expect."

According to the released officers there are 15,000 and sometimes more, prisoners in the camp, which the committee says "is an enormous population for so restricted an area as 10 and a half acres. There were no proper heating arrangements and the men are insufficiently clothed, British overcoats having been taken from them, their clothing being in rags. Many had neither boots or socks. There was an insufficient supply of water and soap and Maj. Priestley says he found the men in gaunt, of a peculiar gray palor and verminous."

The supply of food was also insufficient even in the hospital until supplies arrived from England.

"The only provision for personal cleanliness made for the men," says the report, "was one cupful of soft soap issued at intervals of many weeks to a room containing 120. In consequence, the men became increasingly verminous, and the condition, coupled with cold and want of proper nourishment, was undoubtedly the principal inducing cause of the epidemic."

The epidemic broke out in December, 1914. "Thereupon," says the report, "the German staff, military and medical, precipitately left the camp, and thenceforth, until August, 1915, no communication was held between prisoners and their guards except by means of directions shouted from guards or officers remaining outside the wire entanglements."

"All supplies for the men were pushed into the camp over chutes, and no medical attention during the whole time was provided by the German staff."

Capt. Lauder reports that while in the bungalows there was normally one mattress for three men, in the improvised hospital there were no mattresses at all.

Shy of Hospital
"In consequence," he says, "there were many typhus patients scattered over the compounds who were determined not to come into the hospital if they could help it."

In one compound, he found 50 hidden cases of typhus in the first month. The food ration for each patient was a half petit pain (roll) and a half cup of milk a day. The only soup obtainable came from the camp kitchen and as it was brought in open wooden tubs it was full of dust and dirt.

"In truth," says the committee's report, "the ration was not a ration at all. It was a pretense. It was not

OKLAHOMA MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

Slayer of Policeman Shot to
Death

RIDDLED BY BULLETS

Body Was Tied to Automobile and
Dragged Through the Streets of
the Town.

Lawton, Okla., April 9.—Carl Dudley, a negro, charged with having shot and fatally wounding James Hayes, a policeman, was taken from the Comanche county jail here late to-night by a mob of several hundred men and shot to death in the prison yard. After the negro's body had been riddled with bullets it was tied to an automobile and dragged through the streets. None of the mob was masked. One bystander was slightly wounded in the fusillade in the jail yard.

Hayes was shot and wounded while attempting to arrest the negro here yesterday on a charge of disturbing the peace. The officer died this morning.

Dudley was captured shortly after the shooting and hurried to the army post at Fort Sill for safekeeping. After holding the negro over night, army officers returned him to the county authorities this morning. The mob fought quickly to-night and, gaining entrance to the quarters of the sheriff at the jail, overpowered him and took the negro from his cell.

At midnight the mob was dispersing and no other disorder was anticipated.

Shots fired in a negro settlement shortly after the lynching gave rise to fears of a possible race clash. Officers who hurried to the scene found a negro hiding in an alley armed with a rifle. He was arrested.

even possible to give the patients warm water with their milk."

Four British doctors were infected and three died. It was then that Maj. Priestley and Capt. Vidal went to the hospital to join Capt. Lauder, who was down with typhus. Maj. Priestley says that the patients, alive with vermin, lay so close to one another on the floor that he had to stand straddle-leg across them to examine them.

There were other conditions that are indescribable. There was difficulty in getting sufficient drugs and dressings for a long time and extreme bed sores were common. In several cases the toes of the whole foot became gangrenous. The washing of patients was out of the question until a supply of soap was obtained from England.

Dr. Aschenbach who was in charge of the hospital and who, the committee understands, received the rone cross for combating the epidemic, only paid one visit to the camp, according to the report and that after some order was evolved. Sixty deaths occurred among the British and the victims were buried outside the camp.

"What the prisoners found hardest to bear in the matter of burial," says the report, "were the jeers with which coffins were frequently greeted by the inhabitants of Wittenburg, who stood outside the wires and were permitted to insult the dead."

After the middle of April the conditions commenced to improve and with the arrival of warm weather the cases rapidly decreased and by the middle of May all the British were convalescent. Adequate provision was made to deal with any future outbreaks, improvements being effected as a result of the visit of Ambassador Gerard and members of his staff.

The committee condemn the retention of Dr. Aschenbach as head of the camp, and as evidence of his attitude cite an incident. When one of his staff reported the request of Capt. Lauder for medical requisites, the curly refused the request with the words: "Schweine Engländer."

The report continues: "The cruelty of the administration of the Wittenburg camp became notorious. Savage dogs were habitually employed to terrorize the prisoners; flogging with a rubber whip was frequent. Men were struck with little or no provocation and tied to posts with hands above their heads for hours."

"Capt. Lauder reports that many of these men went so far as to look upon the typhus, with all its terrors, as a Godsend. They preferred it to the presence of German guards."

READY FOR FIGHT ON BATTLESHIPS

Naval Appropriation Bill Being
Framed by House Naval Sub-
Committee

PLAN FOR MUCH SPEED

Scout Cruisers of Newest Type Will
Be Able to Travel at Rapid Pace
and Consume Less Coal.

Washington, April 9.—The house naval subcommittee on appropriations begin to-morrow framing the naval appropriation bill which includes the administration's half billion dollar five year programme for new fighting ships. Chairman Padgett hopes to lay the completed measure before the house by April 25. The big fight is expected to come over the 1917 programme for capital ships. Secretary Daniels has recommended the authorization of two dreadnoughts and two battlecruisers. The navy general board contended for three battleships and four battlecruisers.

Present indications are that the subcommittee will recommend two battleships and four battlecruisers.

At the navy department work on the designs of the new ships has progressed rapidly. Plans for the battleships, large and small submarines, destroyers, gunboats hospital ships and ammunition ships are virtually completed and it will take only a few weeks after appropriation for the vessels is made to lay specifications before private builders. Plans for the battlecruisers and scout cruisers are also under way but will take some time to complete. An illustration of the problems involved became known to-day in regard to designs for the scout cruisers. The general board fixed 32 knots as the minimum speed for these eyes of the fleet. Since designers began planning the ships, however, they have hit upon a way to produce 35 knot craft of enormous cruising radius. As now planned the scouts will far outclass anything ever contemplated by any naval power.

Consume Less Coal.
The scouts will employ geared steam turbines, the system at present installed in the most successful destroyers, which has been found best adapted to craft smaller than battlecruisers for which exceptional speed is desired. At cruising speed, however, these engines will develop less than 2 per cent. of their horse power although their consumption of coal is enormous.

To meet this problem it is planned to equip the scouts with light power electric drive for cruising, the high power turbine plants being idle until they are needed for a swift dash. The 1917 destroyers also will be of 35 knot speed instead of 32, the present standard.

The whole question of speed has undergone a complete change in the departmental engineering bureaus in the last few months. The standard long maintained by the engine designers was that they could provide horsepower in the ratio of 20 horsepower to the ton engine weight. This was far below the figure set by British and other foreign engine designers and partly accounts for the slower speed of American battlecruisers. The figure was raised to 30 horsepower a ton some months ago, and recently the possibility of 45 horsepower per ton has been said to be possible through new engine designers. With the decision to install electric propulsion on battleships soon to be laid down, half a knot was added to their speed. They will make 21 knots under normal conditions, despite the fact that they will carry proportionately greater armor and underwater protection than any previous ships.

Offer Greater Defense.
After long deliberation and much study and experimental maneuvering at the naval war college, it has been determined that the additional knot or so which foreign heavy ships say have does not effect the battle efficiency of the squadron as compared to American craft. The additional cruising radius and armor of the American ships has been shown to more than offset the speed difference.

Engineering officers of the navy believe that delay in the construction

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VOTERS TO CHOOSE DELEGATES SOON

County Conventions Assemble
in Various County Seats May
1 to Elect Delegates

STATE CONVENTION MAY 17

Each County Entitled to Twice as
Many Delegates As It Has Representa-
tives in General Assembly.

Columbia, April 10.—In accordance with the direct primary law passed by the general assembly at its session in 1915 the democratic voters of South Carolina will meet in their respective club places on or before the fourth Saturday in April and elect delegates to the county conventions, which assemble in the various county seats on the first Monday in May. The clubs will elect officers and one delegate to the county convention for every twenty-five voters or fraction thereof, based upon the number of votes polled in the last primary of 1914.

The clubs will also elect a member to represent them on the county democratic executive committee.

The rules governing the democratic party as drawn up at the state convention in 1914 were enacted into law at the session of the general assembly in 1915. This puts it beyond the power of the coming state convention to amend or modify the existing provisions of the present rules and regulations of the party. However, it does not preclude adopting rules and regulations which are not in conflict with the statute law.

Principal Features

The principal features of the law governing organization of the clubs for the primaries every two years provide that each voter must sign his full name on the club rolls. The personal endorsement provision is considered one of the strongest safeguards of the primary, and although its adoption created strong opposition, it is now an accepted principle of the party and its wisdom was justified in its workings two years ago.

The county conventions will meet at noon on the first Monday in May at the various county seats and organize, elect the county chairman, choose delegates to the state convention and elect a member of the state democratic executive committee. The county conventions will also transact such other matters as might be of interest to the various counties.

Each county is entitled to twice as many delegates as it has representatives in the general assembly.

The democratic state convention will meet in the hall of the house of representatives at noon on Wednesday, May 17. It will be called to order by John Gary Evans, chairman of the state democratic executive committee. The convention will be composed of 336 delegates.

Business of Convention

The main business before the convention will be the election of four delegates at large to the national democratic convention in St. Louis, the election of a member of the national democratic executive committee, a position now held by United States Senator B. R. Tillman, the election of a state chairman, now held by former Governor John Gary Evans, and the making of such rules and regulations governing the party primaries and the conduct of the campaign as it may see fit.

The delegates from the various congressional districts will caucus during the day and elect two delegates from each district to the St. Louis convention. This will give South Carolina 18 votes in the national democratic gathering.

The fight to abolish the county-to-county canvass of the candidates will be one of the main struggles to come before the state convention. If the canvass is not abolished there is every reason that it will be safeguarded and amended.

Complexion of "Big Four"

The complexion of the "Big Four" to St. Louis is beginning to attract some attention. It is customary to send the two United States senators and the governor. The names of Senators Tillman and Smith, Governor Manning, former Governor John Gary Evans, State Warehouse Commissioner John L. McLaurin, former Governor Cole L. Blaise, Christie Benet, Senator Allan Johnstone,

SILENT SUNDAY FOR WASHINGTON

No Dispatches From Force in
Mexico

OPTIMISM FOR BAKER

Secretary of War and Other Officials
Have High Hopes for Success in
Capturing Villa.

Washington, April 9.—Sunday brought no dispatches to break the silence of several days regarding the operations of the American expedition in Mexico. Nevertheless Secretary Baker to-night reiterated his optimism for early success of the hunt for Villa.

Lack of news since last Tuesday had not shaken officials' hope. The last information to the war department was that the advance columns apparently had located Villa and a considerable portion of his command near Saltevo.

The war department has been advised, it was learned definitely to-night, that the Thirteenth cavalry, commanded by Col. Slocum, the victims of Villa's raid upon Columbus, just a month ago to-day, is at the front of the troops pursuing Villa.

Secretary Baker said to-day that as far as he knew consideration was not being given to removal of the American border base from Columbus to Presidio, Texas, as reported from the border.

During this week the war department hopes to send one or two new aeroplanes to Gen. Funston.

Less than the average sick rate for field service has been reported.

Gen. Funston reported to the war department to-night the arrival at Casas Grandes of an adequate quantity of hay, oats, food supplies and gasoline. Secretary Baker said: "This indicates that the general problem of provisioning the troops has apparently been relieved."

GAFFNEY EXPRESS AGENT SHOT IN ARM

J. H. Buice Wounds Clarence Gray
After Altercation Over Shipment.

Gaffney, S. C., April 9.—J. H. Buice, and Clarence Gray, local express agent, had an altercation late yesterday afternoon at the express office over the shipment of some fowls, and Gray was shot in the left arm by Buice. Buice claims that Gray was advancing on him with a knife, although it is said that this statement will not be borne out by those who witnessed the difficulty.

Buice spent the night in jail, but is now out on bail. Gray was at his place of business this morning though his wound was painful him.

\$80,000 TO IMPROVE CHARLESTON HARBOR

Accepted as Part of the Appropriation Bill.

Washington, April 10.—Eighty thousand dollars for the improvement of Charleston harbor, \$70,000 of which is for improving the channel of the sea, and \$10,000 for Ashley river, together with the \$1,000,000 for the Norfolk-Beaufort inland waterway project, were accepted as part of the annual rivers and harbors appropriation bill in the house. Representative Fear, of Wisconsin, fought the measure throughout the session.

Congressman Lever, R. Goodwyn Rhett, of Charleston, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States; Solicitor Robert A. Cooper, former Governor M. F. Ansel, are among those mentioned for the delegates at large to the national democratic convention.

South Carolina will undoubtedly instruct for President, Woodrow Wilson, and his administration will be heartily endorsed by the Palmetto democrats. As this was one of the original Wilson states the South Carolina democrats will be given a place of honor at St. Louis.

With the club meetings only two weeks off general apathy on the part of the people is the outstanding feature of the general situation. The indifference has never been more noticeable, and it seems now as if the organization of the clubs and the convention will be purely formal affairs and there will be an entire avoidance of anything like factional contests or partisan proceedings.

GERMANY'S DISCLAIMER PROVES INSUFFICIENT

United States Not Satisfied With
Denial in Face of Accumulated
Evidence

IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION

Wilson and Lansing Still Awaiting
Official Information on Which to
Base Action.

Investigation of recent attacks upon unarmed merchant vessels carrying Americans has developed such a convincing array of evidence pointing to illegal submarine operations that the United States government has determined that the grave situation cannot be cleared up by Germany denying responsibility. *****

Washington, April 10.—Germany's note denying that a German submarine torpedoed the English channel steamer Sussex and disclaiming blame for attacks on other ships inquired about by American Ambassador Gerard, does not satisfy the United States.

The news that Ambassador Gerard would be handed the German disclaimer has been forecast in press reports, and to-day's announcement that he would receive the note to-night or to-morrow did not cause surprise.

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing still are waiting both for the communication from Berlin and for more information from other sources. Much importance is attached to affidavits and evidence gathered by the American embassy at Paris, and due to reach New York Thursday on the liner St. Paul.

Probably the German note and all data needed for determination of the position of the United States will be in hand in time for Friday's cabinet meeting. Until then no announcement of attitude is expected. That some definite action will follow promptly is freely admitted.

BIG STEAMER ESCAPES U-BOAT

Marseilles, April 8.—The large French steamer Colbert was shelled without warning, it is stated, by a submarine in the Mediterranean. She was under a full head of steam at the time and escaped by superior speed. At the same time her wireless warned other ships of the submarine's presence.

FARMER FINDS DAUGHTER DEAD IN PATCH OF WOODS

Ghostly Discovery Made by C. H. Darby, of Fork Shoals Section.

Miss Dora Darby, the 26 year-old daughter and only child of C. H. Darby, a well-to-do farmer of Fork Shoals section of Greenville county, was found dead in a lonely patch of woods about two miles from her father's home last Friday.

The discovery was made by the girl's father, who had become anxious over her disappearance from home, and had set out to look for her. Dazed at his discovery, the father knelt over the deathly pale face of the young woman, and tried to revive her, but she had evidently been dead some hours.

The young woman, who is popularly known in that section, was last seen during the morning, when she appeared in her usual cheerful mood, and no member of the family suspected the dark future.

By the side of the young woman's body, and investigation howed, lay an empty vial, labelled "carbolic acid." The young woman's lips were slightly scorched, according to reports from police officers of that section, and all indications seemed to show that the young woman had voluntarily taken her own life.

The motive for the deed is an absolute mystery. The father of the young woman, say the Pelzer police, can offer no explanation as to why she should have taken her own life, and no note or message, so far as can be found, was left to give any motive for the young woman's determination to end her life.

The Pelzer officers, according to information from that place Saturday, are investigating the case, but up to a late hour, had been able to furnish little additional information.